

CLAIMS

What is claimed and desired to be covered by Letters Patent is:

1. A combination boat and stabilizer comprising:
 - (a) a small boat having a forward end, an aft end, first and second sides connecting the forward end to the aft end, a top rail extending along the first and second sides of the boat, and a transverse axis extending between the first and second sides of the boat; and
 - (b) a boat stabilizer system which includes first and second stabilizer units, each stabilizer unit including:
 - (1) a body with a distal end and a proximal end,
 - (2) a float fixedly mounted on the distal end of the body wherein the float includes a main float portion, at least one adjustable float portion, and a strap with fastening means structured to secure the at least one adjustable float portion vertically relative to the main float portion,
 - (3) a lock unit on the body between the proximal and distal ends of the body, and

(4) a connecting joint structured to connect the proximal ends of the bodies of the first and second stabilizing units to each other; and

(c) wherein, in use:

(1) the proximal ends of the bodies of the first and second stabilizer units are connected together at the connecting joint and are located inside the boat,

(2) the stabilizer system extends across the boat in the direction of the transverse axis of the boat and the distal ends of the bodies of the first and second stabilizer units are located outside the boat, and

(3) the lock units of the first and second stabilizer units releasably engage the top rail of a respective side of the boat.

2. The combination as described in claim 1, wherein:

(a) each main float portion of the first and second stabilizer units includes:

(1) an upper surface having an upper profile, and

(2) a lower surface having a lower profile that is identical to the upper profile; and

(b) each adjustable float portion of the at least one

adjustable float portion of the first and second stabilizer units includes:

- (1) an upper surface having a first auxiliary profile, and
- (2) a lower surface having a second auxiliary profile that is identical to the upper profile of the main float portion.

3. The combination as described in claim 1, wherein each strap of the first and second stabilizer units includes an orifice for receiving the distal end of the respective body therethrough, the orifice being spaced such that the fastening means of the strap is located above the respective float as the strap secures the at least one adjustable float portion vertically relative to the main float portion.

4. The combination as described in claim 1, wherein each strap of the first and second stabilizer units includes:

- (a) a first orifice for receiving the distal end of the respective body therethrough, the first orifice being spaced such that the fastening means of the strap is located above the respective float as the

strap secures the at least one adjustable float portion vertically above the main float portion; and

(b) a second orifice for receiving the distal end of the respective body therethrough, the second orifice being spaced such that the fastening means of the strap is located above the respective float as the strap secures the at least one adjustable float portion vertically below the main float portion.

5. The combination as described in claim 1 wherein each locking mechanism includes a threaded bore defined in a sleeve attached to the respective body and a threaded fastener threadably received in the threaded bore.
6. The combination as described in claim 1 wherein each locking mechanism includes an over-center clamping means.
7. A stabilizer for a small boat having a forward end, an aft end, first and second sides connecting the forward end to the aft end, a top rail extending along the first and second sides of the boat, and a transverse

axis extending between the first and second sides of the boat, the stabilizer comprising:

(a) a boat stabilizer system which includes first and second stabilizer units, each stabilizer unit including:

- (1) a body with a distal end and a proximal end,
- (2) a float fixedly mounted on the distal end of the body wherein the float includes a main float portion, at least one adjustable float portion, and a strap with fastening means structured to secure the at least one adjustable float portion vertically relative to the main float portion,
- (3) a lock unit on the body between the proximal and distal ends of the body, and
- (4) a connecting joint structured to connect the proximal ends of the bodies of the first and second stabilizing units to each other; and

(b) wherein, in use:

- (1) the proximal ends of the bodies of the first and second stabilizer units are connected together at the connecting joint and are located inside the boat,
- (2) the stabilizer system extends across the boat

in the direction of the transverse axis of the boat and the distal ends of the bodies of the first and second stabilizer units are located outside the boat, and

- (3) the lock units of the first and second stabilizer units releasably engage the top rail of a respective side of the boat.

8. The stabilizer as described in claim 7, wherein:

- (a) each main float portion of the first and second stabilizer units includes:
 - (1) an upper surface having an upper profile, and
 - (2) a lower surface having a lower profile that is identical to the upper profile; and
- (b) each adjustable float portion of the at least one adjustable float portion of the first and second stabilizer units includes:
 - (1) an upper surface having a first auxiliary profile, and
 - (2) a lower surface having a second auxiliary profile that is identical to the upper profile of the main float portion.

9. The stabilizer as described in claim 7, wherein each strap of the first and second stabilizer units includes an orifice for receiving the distal end of the respective body therethrough, the orifice being spaced such that the fastening means of the strap is located above the respective float as the strap secures the at least one adjustable float portion vertically relative to the main float portion.
10. The stabilizer as described in claim 7, wherein each strap of the first and second stabilizer units includes:
- (a) a first orifice for receiving the distal end of the respective body therethrough, the first orifice being spaced such that the fastening means of the strap is located above the respective float as the strap secures the at least one adjustable float portion vertically above the main float portion; and
 - (b) a second orifice for receiving the distal end of the respective body therethrough, the second orifice being spaced such that the fastening means of the strap is located above the respective float as the strap secures the at least one adjustable